

Minutes

Special Membership Meeting - May 13, 1980
5:30 pm. - 7:15 pm.
Lord Byng

Marcel Dionne, the President, was in the chair. Minutes were taken by the Secretary-Treasurer, Ray Galbraith. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm.

Marcel Dionne announced that the agenda would be as follows:

- a) Report from Neil Boucher of the Contract Committee
- b) Report from Nancy Wiggs of the Contract Committee
- c) Secretary-Treasurer's report on the costs of the strike to date
- d) Contract/Strike Committees' recommendation

Marcel also announced that the Union Organizer position expired on June 15, 1980. With that in mind he referred to the statements of those running for the position handed out at the door. Balloting for a new Union Organizer would be held at the next membership meeting.

Marcel stated that delegates to the Provincial Convention (to be held in June) would be elected at the next membership meeting. He suggested that any nominations be submitted to the Union Office in the interim.

Marcel indicated that there had been some problems with picketing in regards to the times and the shifts. He said that shifts were now assigned and they would be maintained, although it was possible that some members would have to be moved to other buildings if necessary.

a) Report from Neil Boucher:

Neil stated that he wanted to indicate where the Contract Committee stood at the moment. He said that we had not progressed much further. The Committee had been in touch with the Mediation Services Commission to explore ways of getting back to the table. The ball, Neil felt, was in the University's court. The mediator, Jock Waterston, had been told that we were prepared to negotiate and to be flexible. According to Neil, the mediator had no intention of setting up a meeting at which there would be no movement - a meeting was to be set up when the mediator was assured that both parties would move.

Neil then outlined the options available to us in the dispute: 1) Mediation Services Commission 2) Direct letter route to the University 3) Industrial Inquiry Commission 4) Arbitration. Neil presented the pitfalls contained in options 2, 3, and 4 - none of them were what we either needed or were looking for. Neil said that we were advised by the Mediation Services Commission to trust them and to be advised shortly.

b) Report from Nancy Wiggs:

Nancy reported on the success of the march held on Campus. She said that a more dignified, solemn affair was being planned for the opening of the Acute Care Hospital on Friday, May 16, 1980. Nancy then read one impressive letter of support, one among many, from a faculty member that was going to Kenny. Nancy believed that the letter expressed and encapsulated our position as well as anything to date.

c) Secretary-Treasurer's report:

Ray Galbraith presented a financial update on the projected costs of the strike to date, on the procedure for paying picketers, and on the upcoming referenda poll assessment. Ray stated that there were approximately 136 full-time and 24 part-time picketers to date, that the average projected wage was \$370 per picketer, and that the projected total strike pay would come to \$54,760 - an amount that would exhaust our Strike Fund. That led to a report on the necessity of holding the referendum poll assessment, an assessment that would be pro-rated and would cost a continuing employee approximately \$50.00. The amount generated from such an assessment would finance our present strike strategy until the end of May. Ray indicated that there were difficulties and that these would be in the area of the actual collection. It was possible that the University would not program and deduct such an assessment, and that would leave us with collecting the money ourselves.*

The report elicited immediate response from the membership and the Secretary-Treasurer was

called upon to answer several questions about the finances, the assessment, and the effects on members' benefits and pension plans.

Neil Boucher then re-explained the general situation for late-comers to the meeting.

d) Contract/Strike Committees' report and recommendation:

Judy Wolch, Chairperson of the Strike Committee, reported that rumours about an all-out strike were untrue, ie., false. She then referred to the effect of the strike to date and to the interruption of services and to the deleterious effect on P & S. Apparently, more and more P & S were refusing to do AUCE's work. Four conventions had been cancelled to date and others attending conventions were angry to have not been told that they would be confronted with picket lines.

At that point a question came from the floor. The questioner stated that she disagreed with the assessment of the effectiveness of the strike and said that she felt that people were taking the situation lightly.

Neil Boucher continued the report and said that reports of major disruption of work flow could be substantiated - much work was just not getting done. Neil spoke about the necessity of getting behind any majority decision, about the necessity of pulling together. A long weekend was coming and it was necessary to relieve the picketers for at least two days. If we were solid, Neil felt, we could not be defeated.

At that point further questions came from the floor about difficulties of adequately staffing picket lines on a regular and continuing basis and about what constituted a legal picket line. One member asked whether or not one could look for work elsewhere for the duration of the strike. Nancy Wiggs answered that such a move would be up to each individual - if picketing duties were neglected no strike pay would be forthcoming. In response to another question Neil Boucher provided a quick run-down of the areas presently being picketed. He added that if the University demonstrated any willingness to negotiate then the situation could change.

Members commented on the chaos in the Convention Centre, expressed concern about the apparent split in the meeting, supported the concepts of all-out and selective strikes, extended thanks to volunteers. One member related her experience as management at the Vancouver Hotel and spoke about how the supervisory staff was exploited by the upper management - a situation analogous to the P & S. Another member suggested that an effective strategy would be to pull out the medical secretaries at VGH.

At that point Marcel Dionne suggested a concrete strategy be put forward in the form of a motion.

Moved by Jerry Andersen
Seconded by Nancy Wiggs

THAT WE RE-AFFIRM OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENT
SELECTIVE STRIKE STRATEGY UNTIL THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP
MEETING.

The question was called but several questions came from the floor. One member indicated that other campus unions were in negotiations and that it appeared that we were being skewered first - the member wanted more information about CUPE and OTEU. Nancy Wiggs responded that the other unions were behind, that is they were at a lower stage in negotiations. As AUCE goes, so will the rest go. The Contract Committee planned to keep in close contact with the other unions. A member spoke about the necessity of returning; she felt that such an action would not be fatal - the strike should be ended immediately and negotiations commence. Another member stated that AUCE's problem was that we had always given in and that at some point we would have to say no.

The question was called. After a member requested that we encourage professors to write to Kenny the motion was CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

* Ray then gave notice of a referendum poll ballot for the assessment. The poll was to be held in the Union Office on Tuesday, May 20th and Wednesday, May 21st. He said that the results would be announced at the next membership meeting.